

Inventor: Klipstein, Kevin M.
Serial No.: 10/810,854
Filing Date: March 29, 2004
Group Art Unit: 3722
Examiner: J.O. Williams

REMARKS

The Office action of December 17, 2004 has been carefully considered and the application has been amended accordingly.

Claims 1-4 are present in the application.

Apparatus claims 1 and 2 have been amended to more particularly define applicant's invention as it relates to an extended kelly valve considerably longer in length than prior art kelly valves. In addition, parent claim 1 has been amended to include a spade drill (48) which allows applicant's novel drilling bar to operate in a single cycle without the need of providing a pilot hole as described, and required, with the tool shown in U.S. Patent 5,957,633 (Hall.) It is to be noted that the tool of Hall is not amenable to being provided with a spade drill because of the shape of the tip end 26 and the location of the inserts 36 and it is therefore necessary to first provide a pilot hole (see the Abstract, lines 4-6.)

Independent method claim 3 has been amended to indicate that the step of providing a drilling bar includes locating a spade drill at a leading end of the drill bar and, more particularly, parent claim 3 has been amended to provide that "said method including the further step of causing relative rotation between said valve and said drill bar for forming a stepped bore in said valve in a single cycle." It is believed that this latter amendment is in accord with the Examiner's suggestion, and overcomes the rejection based upon Section 112. The amendment also includes the limitation that applicant's method is performed "in a single cycle", unlike the need in U.S. Patent 5,957,633 for forming a pilot hole before performing a second step of using the disclosed tool and enlarging the preformed pilot hole, as referred to in the patent's Abstract.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, reconsideration is requested and allowance of claims 1-4 is courteously solicited.


Applicant's attorney would welcome a telephone conference if the

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Examiner so desires and believes that it would expedite prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,

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Certification

The undersigned hereby certifies that this Amendment was transmitted by facsimile to the Commissioner for Patents at 703 872 9306 on March 17, 2005.

